(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether government had recently disinvested about Rs. 30 crores to mutual funds and private firms; and

(d) what is the decision if any taken by Government with regard to part (b) above stating the reasons in case a decision to handover the RCF to the co-operative sector is taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) and (d) Does not arise.

(c) Government has so far disinvested 4,13,73,200 shares of RCF (of the face value of Rs. 10 each) to various Financial Institutions/Mutual Funds at a total realisation of Rs. 61,09,49,801.

Shortage of fertilizers

3095. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there is an acute shortage of fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the number and names of fertilizer units which have either been closed down or have cut short their production due to various reasons;

(d) whether there is any pending application with the Government for setting up of new fertilizer units;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government for making easy availability of fertilizers to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (f) At present there is no shortage of fertilizers in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) One DAP unit (M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd., Haldia) and one complex fertilizer unit (M/s. Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., Taloja) have currently suspended their operations. The remaining 13 DAP/complex fertilizer units are operating at less than their full capacities due to reduced sales.

Regarding units producing Single Superphosphate (SSP) in the medium and small scale sectors, it is reported that as on 30-6-1993 about 25 such units in small scale sector were either not operating or were operating at very low capacity due to liquidity problems and reduction in off-take.

(d) and (e) As per Industrial Policy of July, 1991, no licence is required for the manufacture of fertilizers. However in the public/cooperative sector, M/s. National Fertilizers Ltd. and M/s. Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd., have proposed doubling of the capacties of their existing urea plants at Vijaipur (Madhya Pradesh) and Aonla (Uttar Pradesh), respectively. M/s. KRIBHCO are also interested in putting up a nitrophosphate plant in their Hazira (Gujarat) complex.

Drugs industry's proposal to provide essential drugs at low prices to weaker sections

3096. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether drug industry in the country has revised its proposal for full decontrol of drug prices in return for the availability of essential drugs at low prices to weaker sections through special distribution system;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the scheme put forward by the drug industry; and

(c) if so, the decision, if any, taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No such proposal for coverage of all weaker sections has been received from the drug industry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Charges against IDPL official

3097. SHRI BRAHMADEO ANAND PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to the unstarred question 463 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29-7-93 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the charges and remarks of Dir. (Mktg.) are already indicated on the letters dated 6-3-89, aide-memoire of 14-3-89, 25-4-89, 17-5-89, 6-6-89, 28-6-89, 3-8-89, 25-8-89, 4-10-89 which are duly acknowledged by the company or not, together with reasons therefor;